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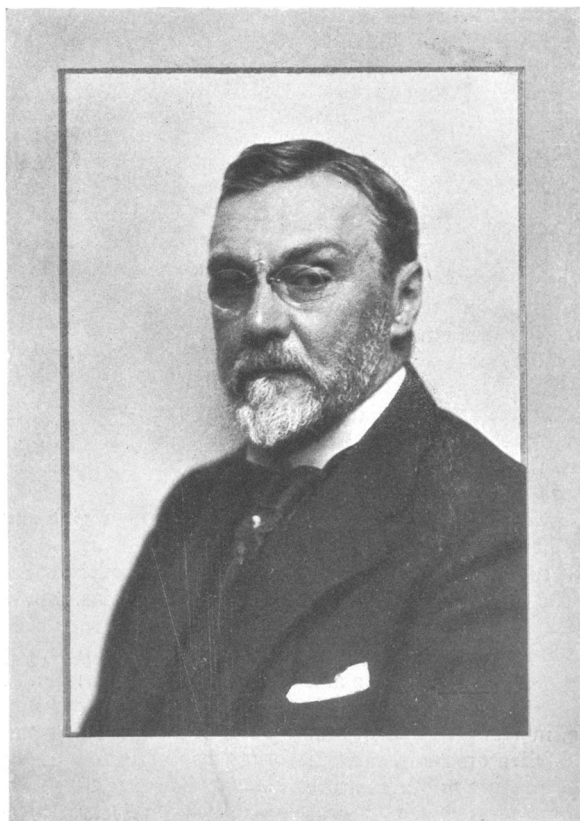
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BULLETIN OF THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART

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ROBERT W. DE FOREST

THE NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS OF THE MUSEUM

AT A meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Museum held on Monday, October 20th, Robert W. de Forest was unanimously elected to fill the office of President, left vacant by the death of the late J. Pierpont Morgan.

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Robert W. de Forest, the fifth President of the Museum, comes to his new office after nearly twenty-five years of service on the Board of Trustees. In the History of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, by Winifred E. Howe, published in the early part of the year, Mr. de Forest is spoken of as follows:

"Robert W. de Forest, who had been a Trustee since 1889, and a member of vari-

ous important committees, became, almost simultaneously with the election of J. Pierpont Morgan as President, Secretary of the Board of Trustees. Mr. de Forest's deep interest in the Museum is both personal and hereditary, inasmuch as its first president, John Taylor Johnston, was his father-in-law. With wide sympathy and knowledge of men, art, and social conditions, with prompt and sure initiative in large affairs, with rare skill in their organization — recognizing essentials, yet not forgetful of attending details — and with a strong and generous guiding hand, Mr. de Forest as Secretary, and, later, as Second Vice-President, has given of his time and energy unstintingly to the work of the Trustees in building up the Museum and administering its affairs."

Mr. de Forest's earliest activity in Museum affairs related to its collection of casts. It was on his initiative that a special committee was appointed, in 1891, which greatly enlarged this collection. He was titular Vice-President but practically Chairman of this Committee. It is interesting to recall, in this connection, that the first relation of our present director, Edward Robinson, to the Metropolitan Museum of Art was as Purchasing Agent of this Committee, twenty-two years ago.

The Presidency had been offered to the son of our late President. Mr. Morgan, after considering the matter over the summer, declined by a letter written to the officers of the Museum, in which he says:

"My interest in the Museum is keen and my desire for its welfare great, but it is impossible for me, in view of all the other duties which have fallen on me in the last few months, and which are in their nature most compelling and absorbing, to accept the office which you so kindly offer."

Mr. Joseph H. Choate was nominated as President, but declined to accept. The Trustees then unanimously determined to propose an amendment to the Constitution, making any one of the original incorporators of the Museum eligible as Honorary President and nominated Mr. Choate for this office. Mr. Choate is the only surviving incorporator who has served as Trustee continuously from the

time when the first Board of Trustees was constituted, forty-three years ago.

To fill the position of Second Vice-President, vacant by Mr. de Forest's acceptance of the presidency, Henry Walters was elected. Mr. Walters became a Trustee in 1905. The next year he was elected a member of the Executive Committee, on which he has served continuously ever since. He is also an active member of the Purchasing Committee and of the Building Committee.

Henry W. Kent, who had been Assistant Secretary since 1905, was elected Secretary

THE BENJAMIN ALTMAN BEQUEST

ON Monday, October 20th, the Trustees of the Museum unanimously voted to accept the splendid bequest of the late Benjamin Altman, which is set forth in the following extract from his will, upon the terms and conditions which are therein specified. The character and extent of the collection thus bequeathed to the Museum are shown in the list which follows the quotation from Mr. Altman's will.

EXTRACT FROM THE LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF BENJAMIN ALTMAN

TWELFTH — I give and bequeath to The Metropolitan Museum of Art in the City of New York my entire collection of paintings, Chinese porcelains, tapestries and rugs, Limoges enamels, rock crystals and marbles, bronzes and furniture, contained in the following catalogues: No. 1. All my Chinese porcelains. No. 2. All my Chinese snuff-bottles. No. 3. All my paintings, tapestries, rugs, rock crystals, Limoges enamels, marbles, and bronzes. Also all my antique furniture and objects of art contained in catalogue No. 3, together with all the cabinets containing the various objects. Also all my catalogues Nos. 1, 2, and 3, which contain an accurate description and history of my said collection; also any other articles or objects of art which I may hereafter acquire and which I may add to said catalogues Nos. 1, 2, or 3, and to such collection.

The foregoing bequest is made upon the following express conditions: